(a) whethre it is a fact that L. C. Jain Committee recommended the Sovan Siri Dam Project to be cleared by the Centre at the earleist;

(b) whther Sovan Siri Dam Project had been submitted by Brahmaputra Board in 1985;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sovan Siri Dam Project, if materialised, will reduce the flood height of river Brahmaputra by 0.25 and would produce 4800 M.W. at the installed capacity which can be supplied up to Uttar Pradesh at the cost of 55 paise per unit; and

(d) if so, by when the Central Government propose to clear the project and have discussion with Arunachal Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) L.C. Jain Committee have *inter alia* recommended processing of Subansiri (Sovan Siri) multi Project for taking up infrastructural work in Eighth Plan, if the Project is found to be feasible from all aspects. Brahmaputra Board has taken up required investigations and studies for the project.

Illegal Trade of Himalayan Musk Deer with foreign countries

377. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the 'Statesman' of January, 22, 1991 that the Himalayan Musk Deer is threatened with extinction due to illegal trade with Japan and other countries, which is rampant and takes a toll of 30,000 deer per year; and

(b) if so, what stringent measures have been/are being taken to prevent this illegal trade effectively and to provide adquate protection to this threatened species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Yes, Sir.

(b) The action taken to prevent illegal trade and to provide adequate protection to this species are:—

(i) The musk deer is included in Appendix I of CITES and any international trade in the species or articles derived from the species is totally banned. Japan Government had however sought reservation in respect to trade in musk. The reservation has, now been withdrawn with effect from 1-4-1989 as a consequence of which import of musk to Japan is totally prohib ted

(ii) Government of France has also been requested to ensure that no musk is imported by France.

(iii) Regular checking of wildlife consignments is made by the Regional Deputy Directors, Wildlife Preservation to ensure that no prohibited wildlife product is exported in the garb of permitted items.

(iv) The species is included in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and hunting of the species and in musk or any other parts of the animal is strictly prohibited.

(v) A net work of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks has been set up in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim to provide protection to the species and its habitat.

(vi) Wildlife wings of these states carry out anti-poaching activities to prevent illegal killing of the species.

(vii) Captive breeding of musk deer has been taken up by the State Governments for augmenting the population of the species.

(viii) Government of India is providing financial assistance to State Governments for strengthening their anti-poaching infrastructure. An amount of Rs. 100 lakhs was released for the purpose during the Seventh Five Year

Plan and sanctioned allocation for the year 1990-91 is Rs. 35 lakhs. The proposed allocation for 1991-92 is Rs. 75 lakhs.

(ix) A system of rewards has been introduced to get intelligence about poachers.

(x) A bill has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha to make Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 more stringent and effective. It includes proposals for enhancing penalties to be awarded to poachers.

India's moves on ending Gulf War

378. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what moves, if any, were made by Government to help resolve the issues after the Gulf War broke out between Iraq and US-allies; and

(b) what was the response of the two parties and the U.N. and other international agencies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been trying to seek a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis It has issued several appeals to the parties concerned to bring the war to an end and restore peace in the Gulf region. It has also taken initiatives in the Security Council and in the Non-aligned Movement for achieving this purpose and has been in touch with the parties to the conflict, members of the Security Council and Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement. Usfortunately, in spite of our efforts and those of other countries, it has not been possible to restore peace in the Gulf region. And the war is not only continuing but has been intensified with the commencement of full-scale ground war.

Bridge over Mahanadi in Phulbani, Orissa

379. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to construct a bridge known as Band-Kiakata over the river Mahanadi in Phulbani district, Orissa with Central Road Fund was under the consideration of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for which fund has not been santioned for that project so far;

(c) whether priority would be accorded for the project in 1991-92; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As the actual augmentation of Central Road Fund against which the proposals were invited has not yet taken place, the same have not been processed for approval and it is too early to say whethr priority would be acorded to this project in 1991-92.

Bilateral ties with China

380. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken steps to improve bilateral ties with China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to resume border trade between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The visit of the then Minister of External affairs to China in early February 1991 resulted in enhanced understanding between India and China on various matters of mutuals concern in the bilateral, regional and international spheres. It was decided to restore Consulates